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Economic and Social Council

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21 January 1998

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Organizational session for 1998
3-6 February 1998
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Elections, nominations and confirmations

Elections and nominations

Note by the Secretary-General

The Council is called upon to hold elections and nominations, postponed from previous sessions, to the following bodies.

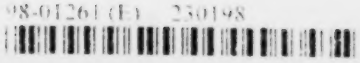
Elections

Commission on Population and Development

Four Latin American and Caribbean States, two members for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2000 and one member for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2001.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Eight members from Asian States, one member from Eastern European States, three members from Latin American and Caribbean States and seven members from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election. The term of office of the members



elected will be determined by lot once the membership of those regional groups is complete.

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

One member from Asian States, two members from Latin American and Caribbean States and two members from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

Committee on Natural Resources

One expert from Asian States, one expert from Eastern European States and two experts from Western European and other States for a term beginning on the date of election.

The terms of office of the members will be determined by lot once the membership is complete.

Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development

Six experts from African States and two experts from Eastern European States, for a term beginning on the date of election.

The terms of office of the members will be determined by lot once the membership is complete.

Committee for the United Nations Population Award

Three members from African States, one member from Eastern European States and one member from Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2000.

Programme Coordination Board of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

One member from African States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2000.

Nominations

Committee for Programme and Coordination

One member from Western European and other States is to be nominated for election by the General Assembly for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 1999.

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Elections, nominations and confirmations

Confirmations

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Council for confirmation, pursuant to rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the names of the representatives of the members of the functional commissions listed below that have been received since the close of the resumed substantive session of 1997. Biographical data are available in the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division, Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat.

Commission on Population and Development

Brazil	Marco Antônio Diniz **Brandão**
Republic of Korea	Nam-Hoon **Cho**
Russian Federation	Igor A. **Zlokazov**
Thailand	Damrong **Boonyoen**

Commission on Human Rights

Rwanda	Gerald **Gahima**
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Audrey **Glover**

* E/1998/2

98-01755 (E) 280198 290198

Commission on the Status of Women

Greece	Maria **Arseni**
Rwanda	Christine Umutoni **Nyinawumwani**

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Item 7 of the provisional agenda*
Elections, nominations and confirmations

Confirmations

Note by the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Commission on Population and Development

The name of the representative of Brazil should read as follows:

Bruno de Risios **Bath**

* E/1998/2 and Corr.1

98-02140 (E) 020298 030298

United Nations E/1998/L.2/Add.1

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Elections, nominations and confirmations

Confirmations

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the Council for confirmation, pursuant to rule 11 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the name of the representative of a member of the functional commission listed below that has been received since the close of the resumed substantive session of 1997. Biographical data is available in the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs Division, Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services of the United Nations Secretariat.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

China	Zhang **Yishan**

* E/1998/2 and Corr.1.

98-02134 (E) 020298 030298

United Nations E/1998/L.3

Economic and Social Council

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30 January 1998

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Organizational session for 1998
22 January, 3-6 February and 7 and 8 May 1998
Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1998

Note by the Secretariat

At its resumed 1997 session, held from 19 to 23 January 1998, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the provisional agenda for its 1998 session set out below.

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the resumed 1997 session of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification.
4. Review of quadrennial reports deferred from the resumed 1997 session.
5. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302.
6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 and decision 1995/304.
7. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32.
8. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/50.
9. Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee to be held in 1999.
10. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

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United Nations E/1998/L.4

Economic and Social Council

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3-6 February 1998
Agenda item 5
Reports, conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies: human rights questions

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth session

Administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council (see E/1997/L.23 and Add.2)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council

I. Introduction

1. By its decision 1997/321, the Council decided to postpone to its organizational session for 1998 consideration of the recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth session, and to request the Secretariat to provide additional written information on the programme budget implications of those decisions.

2. The present document is submitted in accordance with that decision of the Council, and replaces documents E/1997/L.44 and Add.1.

3. The programme budget implications of the decisions/recommendations adopted by the Committee at its sixteenth session were described in documents E/1997/L.44 of 22 July 1997 and E/1997/L.44/Add.1 of 16 December 1997. Document E/1997/L.44 deals with the programme budget implications of the decisions of the Committee as submitted to the Council at its substantive session of 1997 in documents E/1997/L.23 and Add.1. Document E/1997/L.44/Add.1 deals with the programme budget implications of the decisions of the Committee described in chapter III of the Committee's report, which was submitted to the Council at its resumed substantive session of 1997 in document E/1997/L.62 of 20 September 1997.

4. Following the adoption by the Council of its decision 1997/321, the Secretariat undertook consultations with the members of the Committee. The consultations emphasized the understanding of the Committee that the implementation of the activities described in chapter III was to be financed from extrabudgetary resources. In view of that understanding, documents E/1997/L.44 and Add.1 are superseded by this document.

98-02171 (E) 030298 040298

II. Requests of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

5. At its sixteenth session, held at Geneva from 28 April to 16 May 1997, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommended the adoption of the following three decisions by the Economic and Social Council:

(a) By draft decision I, the Economic and Social Council, concerned that there is currently a backlog of reports awaiting consideration by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which will take up to three years to clear on the basis of existing arrangements, would approve, on an exceptional basis, the holding of one additional three-week session of the Committee in the course of 1998, as well as a pre-sessional working group of one week's duration;

(b) By draft decision II, the Council, noting that the effectiveness and profile of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights could be further enhanced by holding occasional sessions in New York, would approve the holding of the Committee's nineteenth session, in New York in late 1998;

(c) By draft decision III, the Council, noting that no action has yet been taken by the General Assembly with regard to its decisions 1993/297 and 1995/302 A and that honoraria are already being paid to members of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, would call upon the General Assembly to take appropriate action to remedy the situation by approving the payment of an honorarium, as from 1997, to the members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

6. By its decision brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council, adopted at the same session, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, recalling its decision of May 1997 to initiate the drafting of a range of general comments for consideration and adoption by the Committee over the next two years or so, and having concluded that the most efficient manner of proceeding is to entrust a working group with responsibility for undertaking a careful initial review and revision of drafts to be prepared by individual members, decided to schedule, on an exceptional basis from within existing resources, a one-week ad hoc working group meeting of five members specifically designated for that purpose, immediately before its eighteenth session, in April 1998.

III. Relationship of requests to the programme of work

7. The activities referred to above fall under subprogramme 2 (Supporting human rights bodies and organs) of programme 19 (Human rights) of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1), and section 22 (Human rights) of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 (A/52/6/Rev.1).

IV. Activities by which the requests would be implemented and additional requirements at full cost

Draft decision I. Extraordinary additional session of the Committee and pre-sessional working group in 1998

8. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights normally holds two three-week sessions per year in April/May and November/December, respectively. A pre-sessional working group meets for one week immediately after the conclusion of each session. Travel and subsistence costs are paid to the 18 members of the Committee attending the annual sessions and to an average of 5 members participating in the pre-sessional working groups.

9. Provisions have been included under sections 22 (Human rights) and 27E (Conference services/Geneva) of the 1998-1999 programme budget for two sessions and two pre-sessional working groups annually.

10. The most appropriate time to hold the extraordinary additional session at Geneva would be during the period between the eighteenth (April/May) and nineteenth (November/December) sessions of the Committee, with the additional pre-sessional working group meeting being held immediately following the conclusion of the Committee's eighteenth session. However, for the reasons mentioned in paragraphs 14-16 below, it is proposed that the additional session of the Committee be convened during the period scheduled for the nineteenth session (November/December 1998) and that the nineteenth session be held in New York in August 1998. Under this arrangement, the proposed pre-sessional working group meeting for the additional session would be held immediately following the conclusion of the Committee's nineteenth session.

11. Should the Economic and Social Council adopt draft decision I and agree that the additional session should be

held during the period scheduled for the nineteenth session, no additional requirements would be entailed by the decision, since provisions for the nineteenth session have already been included in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. However, the holding of the nineteenth session in New York would require additional financing since the resources budgeted for that session would be spent on holding the additional session in November/December 1998 in Geneva.

Draft decision II. Holding of the nineteenth session of the Committee in New York in late 1998

12. Should the Council adopt draft decision II, additional provisions would be required for travel and per diem costs of the 18 members of the Committee (US$ 160,000), and per diem costs for an average of 5 members of the Committee participating in the pre-sessional working group meeting (US$ 10,000). In addition, travel and per diem costs amounting to US$ 39,000 would be required for six Geneva-based staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights travelling to New York to service the nineteenth session.

13. As regards the conference-servicing requirements in New York, it should be noted that the proposed three-week session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in New York from 16 November to 4 December 1998, plus a one-week pre-session meeting of its working group, falls during the peak period of the regular session of the General Assembly, when all conference-servicing resources are committed to meeting the requirements of the Assembly and its main committees and other related meetings of regional groups. In order that the work of the Assembly is not adversely affected by meetings and servicing requirements of other bodies, all conference facilities are, in practice and as a general rule, strictly limited for the use of the Assembly and its main committees during its regular annual sessions. In accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, even subsidiary bodies of the Assembly itself are not allowed to meet at Headquarters except when specifically authorized by the Assembly to do so.

14. For these reasons, it will not be possible to accommodate the nineteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in New York from 16 November to 4 December 1998.

15. Based on the calendar of conferences for 1998, it is anticipated that the nineteenth session of the Committee could be accommodated in New York during the month of August 1998. Accordingly, and after consultations with the Chairman of the Committee, it is proposed that the nineteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights be convened during August 1998 in New York. It would immediately be followed by the pre-sessional working group in preparation for the Committee's additional (November/December 1998) session. The pre-sessional working group for the nineteenth session would be held at Geneva in May 1998, immediately following the conclusion of the Committee's eighteenth session.

16. The conference-servicing requirements for the nineteenth session and the meeting of the working group would amount to US$ 925,300, at full cost. A comparative breakdown of the costs for travel, per diem and conference services between New York and Geneva is provided in the annex to the present document, as requested by the Council in its decision 1997/321.

17. By its resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Committee should meet with the venue alternating between Geneva and New York. However, the General Assembly, in its resolution 40/252 of 18 December 1985, invited the Council to reconsider its decision to allow the Committee to meet in New York. Consequently, by its decision 1986/102 of 7 February 1986, the Council decided that sessions of the Committee should be held at Geneva. Therefore, should the Council endorse draft decision II, the holding of the nineteenth session of the Committee in New York would imply an exception to Council decision 1986/102.

Draft decision III. Payment of honoraria to the members of the Committee

18. The current rates of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/218 of 17 December 1980, are as follows: US$ 5,000 per annum for Chairmen (Presidents) and US$ 3,000 per annum for other members.

19. The proposed payment of honoraria to the 18 members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights would amount to US$ 56,000 per annum.

20. As noted in the report of the Secretary-General concerning the comprehensive study of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United

Nations (A/C.5/47/45), the basic principle enunciated by the General Assembly in resolution 2489 (XXIII) of 21 December 1968 and a number of subsequent resolutions was that neither a fee nor any other remuneration in addition to subsistence allowance at the standard rate would normally be paid to members of organs or subsidiary organs unless expressly decided upon by the General Assembly. The Committee on Economic and Cultural Rights has previously recommended, on several occasions, the payment of honoraria to its members, as reflected in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary General (A/C.5/47/45). By its decision 47/460 B of 6 May 1993, the General Assembly deferred to its forty-eighth session the review of the whole question of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations, and no decision has been made since on this issue. Should the Economic and Social Council decide to approve draft decision III, the payment of honoraria to the members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights could only be considered for implementation from 1999 onwards, after the General Assembly had considered, at its fifty-third session, the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Council and decided to extend the payment of honoraria to the members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Thus, the adoption of draft decision III would not in and of itself give rise to additional financial implications. Such implications could only arise from a decision of the General Assembly to accept the recommendation of the Council.

Decision concerning ad hoc working group meeting

21. The attention of the Council is drawn to the decision of the Committee at its sixteenth session regarding the proposed meeting of an ad hoc working group, to be convened at Geneva, within existing resources, immediately before the Committee's eighteenth session in April 1998.

22. It will be recalled that in accordance with rule 24, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure of the Council, the commissions and committees of the Council shall not create either standing or ad hoc inter-sessional subsidiary bodies without prior approval of the Council. The Economic and Social Council is therefore requested to consider the decision of the Committee and take action thereon.

23. As regards the Committee's request that the meeting of the ad hoc working group be convened within existing resources, it should be recalled that the General Assembly, in part VI of its resolution 45/248 B:

(a) Reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

(b) Reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(c) Expressed its concern at the tendency of its substantive committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters;

(d) Invited the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters.

24. Should the Council endorse the decision of the Committee, the holding of the ad hoc working group would require an additional US$ 10,000 in respect of per diem payable to the five members participating in the working group. No additional travel costs would be incurred since all five members would be remaining in Geneva to attend the eighteenth session of the Committee.

25. The ad hoc working group would be meeting for five working days without interpretation. The conference-servicing requirements, which are estimated on a full cost basis at US$ 27,500, would be limited to post-session documentation in four languages.

26. Should the Council adopt draft decisions I and II and approve the above-mentioned decision of the Committee, the dates of the meetings of the Committee and its pre-sessional working group in 1998 would be as follows:

(a) 20-24 April (Geneva): ad hoc working group;

(b) 27 April-15 May (Geneva): eighteenth session of the Committee;

(c) 18-22 May (Geneva): pre-sessional working group for the nineteenth session;

(d) Three weeks in August (New York): nineteenth session of the Committee;

(e) One week in August (New York): pre-sessional working group for the additional (twentieth) session;

(f) 16 November 4 December (Geneva): additional (twentieth) session of the Committee;

(g) 7-11 December (Geneva): pre-sessional working group for the twenty-first session.

V. Modifications to the proposed programme of work

27. The programme of work included under section 22 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 would have to be modified as follows:

Subprogramme 2. Supporting human rights bodies and organs

Activities (a). Servicing of intergovernmental and expert bodies

Substantive and technical servicing of meetings:

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: additional 30 plenary meetings of the Committee and 20 meetings of its working group.

VI. Potential for absorption

28. No provisions have been included under section 22 (Human rights) of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 to cover the substantive requirements of US$ 219,000 relating to (a) the holding of an additional session of the Committee and its pre-sessional working group in 1998 in New York (US$ 209,000) and (b) the holding in Geneva of the ad hoc working group for one week in April 1998 (US$ 10,000). It is not anticipated that these requirements could be absorbed within the provisions approved for section 22 (Human rights) of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

29. As regards the payment of honoraria to the members of the Committee, although no provisions have been included in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, no immediate requirements would arise from adoption of the decision since an obligation to make honorarium payments could only be established by subsequent decision of the General Assembly.

30. The conference-servicing costs related to the holding of the ad hoc working group in 1998 and the nineteenth session of the Committee and the meeting of its pre-sessional working group in New York are estimated at US$ 27,500 and US$ 925,300, at full cost, respectively. Those estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity included under section 27E (Conference services) of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. The extent to which the Organization's permanent conference-servicing capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1998-1999. Provision has, however, been made under section 27E of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparations but also for meetings which might be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years.

VII. Summary

31. Should the Economic and Social Council decide to adopt draft decision II and endorse the decision of the Committee brought to the attention of the Council, additional requirements of US$ 219,000 would be required.

32. Except for the recommendation on honoraria, which subject to a decision by the General Assembly could be implemented only from 1999 onwards, the other recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights are to be implemented in 1998 subject to their endorsement by the Council.

33. However, should the Council decide to endorse those recommendations at its organizational session for 1998, the Secretary-General would address the issue of resource requirements in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 1998-1999 utilizing, if necessary, the provisions of Assembly resolution 52/223 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 1998-1999.

Annex

Costs entailed by draft decision II, "Holding of the nineteenth session of the Committee in New York or Geneva"*

I. Section 22. Human rights

	1998-1999
	(United States dollars)
	New York
Travel and per diem of all 18 members attending the proposed annual session of the Committee	160 000
Per diem of five members attending the meeting of the pre-sessional working group	10 000
Travel of six staff members of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights to New York to service the annual session	39 000
Total I	**209 000**

* Should the meeting be held in Geneva, no provision would be required for travel of staff members. Hence, Geneva-based costs would be limited to $170,000.

II. Section 27E. Conference services

	1998-1999 (*United States dollars*)	
	New York	*Geneva*
Pre-sessional Working Group (one week in 1998)		
Meeting services (E, F, R, S) 10 meetings	37 600	35 900
Pre-session documentation (E, F, R, S) 600 pages, 18 documents	340 600	332 400
Post-session documentation (E, F, R, S) 40 pages, 6 documents	23 400	23 600
Other requirements	5 900	2 300
Total, pre-sessional Working Group	**407 500**	**394 200**
Session of the Committee (three weeks in 1998)		
Meeting services (A, E, F, R, S) 30 meetings	147 900	146 700
Pre-session documentation (A, E, F, R, S) 50 pages, 5 documents	37 900	37 200
In-session documentation (A, E, F, R, S) 90 pages, 10 documents	67 600	61 700
Post-session documentation (A, E, F, R, S) 30 pages, 6 documents	23 100	23 600
Summary records (E, F, S)	224 300	210 400
Other requirements	17 600	6 800
Total, session of the Committee	**517 800**	**485 900**
Total II	**925 300**	**880 100**

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NATIONS

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PROCLAMATION OF INTERNATIONAL YEARS

Proclamation of international years

Russian Federation: draft resolution

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, in which, inter alia, the Assembly stressed, in annex I, paragraphs 66 and 67, that the primary function of the general segment should be an action-oriented review of the activities, reports and recommendations of the Council's subsidiary bodies and that the Council should regularly review the agenda of its general segment with a view to discontinuing consideration of items not relevant to the work of its subsidiary machinery or duplicative of items on the agenda of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of the guidelines for international years and anniversaries, adopted by the General Assembly in its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980, for the consideration of proposals for the proclamation of international years,

Recognizing the need to provide for effective arrangements for the proclamation of international years,

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* E/1998/2.

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/...

Recommends that the General Assembly decide that, starting from the year 1999, proposals for the proclamation of international years should be presented directly for the consideration of and action by the Assembly unless it decides to bring them to the attention of the Council for evaluation in accordance with the provisions of the above-mentioned guidelines.

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Agenda item 2

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Draft proposals submitted by the Vice-President of the Council (Bangladesh) on the basis of informal consultations held pursuant to paragraph 2 (1) of Council decision 1988/77

DRAFT DECISION I

Humanitarian affairs segment

The Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 52/12 B, decides:

(a) That the humanitarian affairs segment, established in accordance with Assembly resolution 52/12 B, shall be held for a period of two days during the 1998 substantive session of the Council, without setting a precedent for future arrangements for that segment;

(b) That practical arrangements for the segment, as requested by the Assembly in its resolution 52/12 B, shall be the subject of consideration by the Council and shall be part of the review of its organization and methods of work, taking into account the experiences drawn at its 1998 substantive session as well as the impact of holding that segment during the substantive session on the effectiveness of the work of the session as a whole.

DRAFT DECISION II

Working arrangements for the substantive session of 1998 of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council decides that:

(a) The high-level segment of its substantive session of 1998 shall be held from 6 to 8 July;

(b) The operational activities segment shall be held on 9, 10, 13 and 14 July;

(c) The humanitarian affairs segment shall be held on 15 and 16 July;

(d) The coordination segment shall be held on 17, 18 and 21 July;

(e) The general segment shall be held from 22 to 30 July;

(f) 31 July shall be devoted to the adoption of proposals and the conclusion of the session.